

# Call for Evidence to Inform an Independent Review of the Cost of Providing Quality Childcare

## Introduction

Crowe Horwath, on behalf of the Department of Children and Youth Affairs, is undertaking an independent review of the costs of providing quality children in Ireland. This call for evidence is part of that review and will inform its findings.

The call for evidence is aimed at childcare providers (crèches, preschool providers, after-school childcare providers, childminders, etc.); parents; representative / umbrella bodies within the childcare sector; academics with an interest in the childcare sector; voluntary organisations; statutory agencies; and any other stakeholders.

*Issued 6 November 2017*

## Background

- The Government has committed to conduct and publish an independent review of the cost of providing quality childcare, which will inform the development of publicly funded childcare including the Affordable Childcare Scheme and free pre-school provided under the Early Childhood Care and Education Programme.
- This call for evidence is part of a process of gathering the necessary evidence which will inform the review. The evidence will improve our understanding of what factors contribute to the cost of providing childcare for childcare providers.
- The Independent Review of the Cost of Providing Quality Childcare is expected to be completed by June 2018.

## Scope of the Call for Evidence

Crowe Horwath, on behalf of the Department of Children and Youth Affairs, welcomes any information you wish to provide to inform the review. In the next few months, Crowe Horwath will undertake a review of the existing evidence on the cost of childcare in Ireland, and relevant literature from elsewhere to inform the review. The evidence you provide will form part of this exercise. We particularly welcome any information you may be able to provide on the following:

- Existing studies and research about the cost of childcare in Ireland;
- Evidence from childcare providers about the factors that make up the cost of providing childcare, and how much of the total cost they represent;
- Evidence on the additional cost of providing childcare of high quality;
- Evidence from other jurisdictions in respect of establishing, reviewing, or modelling the costs of childcare provision.

Please note that this review of existing evidence is the first part of the overall review, and will be followed by engagement with childcare providers in the form of a survey, interviews, focus groups, and consultation with sector representative bodies and other stakeholders.

Crowe Horwath may contact you in future as part of the review, either to discuss the evidence you have provided or to gather your views. Please indicate if you would prefer not to be contacted.

### **How to Respond**

- By email: if you would like to submit your response by email or if you would like to attach a document in response to the call for evidence, please email a copy to:  
[vanya.sargent@crowehorwath.ie](mailto:vanya.sargent@crowehorwath.ie)
- By post: post to: Vanya Sargent, Crowe Horwath, Marine House, Clanwilliam Place, Dublin 2.

### **Deadline**

The call for evidence closes on 20 November 2017.